

Message Text

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64

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15

OMB-01 AID-20 PC-04 RSR-01 /115 W

----- 020454

R 061800Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2155

INFO AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

USCINCSO

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USCINCSO FOR POLAD

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, NU

SUBJECT: STATUS REPORT ON NEW CONSTITUTION

1. THERE ARE INDICATIONS THAT THE NATIONAL CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY WHICH WAS CONVENED APRIL 15, 1972, AFTER THE CONGRESS DISSOLVED ITSELF IN AUGUST 1971, MAY AT LAST GET DOWN TO THE BUSINESS FOR WHICH IT WAS ELECTED. ON AUGUST 3 CONSERVATIVE (PCN-P) LEADER EDMUNDO PAGUADA ANNOUNCED TO THE PRESS THAT HE AND GENERAL SOMOZA HAD RECENTLY AGREED THAT A DRAFT OF THE NEW CONSTITUTION WOULD BE FORMALLY PRESENTED TO THE ASSEMBLY IN OCTOBER AND THE FINAL DOCUMENT WOULD BE APPROVED BY JANUARY 1974. PAGUADA ADDED THAT THIS WOULD ALSO BE THE LEGISLATIVE TIMETABLE FOR THE NEW ELECTORAL LAW.

2. COMMENT: WITH ELECTIONS SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER 1974, JANUARY 1974 PROMULGATIONS WOULD BE NONE TOO SOON. THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LIBERAL AND CONSERVATIVE PARTIES HAVE HAD THEIR CONSTITUTIONAL

DRAFTS READY SINCE EARLY 1972. THE TWO PROPOSALS ARE
REPORTEDLY VERY SIMILAR AND BOTH ARE ESSENTIALLY REWRITES
OF THE OLD CONSTITUTION, INCORPORATING THE FEW CHANGES CALLED
FOR BY THE LIBERAL CONSERVATIVE PACT. THE CONSTITUENT
ASSEMBLY'S LONG DELAY IN ACTIVELY CONSIDERING A NEW
CONSTITUTION HAS BEEN PURSUANT TO GENERAL SOMOZA'S DESIRE
TO KEEP THE CONSTITUTIONAL DOOR OPEN.
SHELTON

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CONSTITUTION, CENTRAL LEGISLATURE, CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 AUG 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973MANAGU03324
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: MANAGUA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730856/aaaaboxb.tel
Line Count: 69
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18-Jan-2002 by thigpegh>; APPROVED <27 FEB 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: STATUS REPORT ON NEW CONSTITUTION
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, NU
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005